

OPINION 1235

SEBASTOCLES JORDAN & HUBBS, 1925 (PISCES,
SCORPAENIDAE): DESIGNATION OF TYPE SPECIES

RULING.—(1) Under the plenary powers, all designations of type species for the nominal genus *Sebastocles* Jordan & Hubbs, 1925 hitherto made are hereby set aside and *Sebastichthys hubbsi* Matsubara, 1937 is hereby designated as type species of that genus.

(2) The generic name *Sebastichthys* Jordan & Hubbs, 1925 (gender: masculine), type species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Sebastichthys hubbsi* Matsubara, 1937, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2174.

(3) The specific name *hubbsi* Matsubara, 1937, as published in the binomen *Sebastichthys hubbsi* (specific name of type species of *Sebastocles* Jordan & Hubbs, 1925) is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2833.

HISTORY OF THE CASE Z.N.(S.)2183

An application for the use of the plenary powers to designate a type species for *Sebastocles* Jordan & Hubbs, 1925 was first received from Professor Lo-chai Chen (*San Diego State University, California, U.S.A.*) on 14 June 1976. After an exchange of correspondence it was sent to the printer on 19 April 1977 and published on 31 August 1977 in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 34, pp. 88–89. Public notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the statutory serials, to eight general serials and one specialist serial. No comment was received.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 6 October 1981 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (1981)25 for or against the proposals set out in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 34, p. 88. At the close of the voting period on 6 January 1982 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative Votes — twenty (20) received in the following order: Melville, Holthuis, Mroczkowski, Sabrosky, Willink, Trjapitzin, Corliss, Vokes, Brinck, Tortonese, Hahn, Heppell, Lehtinen, Alvarado, Binder, Habe, Dupuis, Nye, Welch, Bayer

Negative Votes — none (0).

Cogger abstained. Late affirmative votes were received from Halvorsen, Starobogatov and Ride (with a proviso quoted below). No votes were returned by Bernardi and Kraus.

The following comments were sent in by members of the Commission with their voting papers:

Cogger: 'I abstain from voting. The application is incomplete as it fails to explore the taxonomic and nomenclatural ramifications of either the proposal or the failure of the proposal. It also fails to demonstrate a need for the use of the plenary powers. Why is there a need to preserve *Sebastocles*? No evidence is presented to allow any judgment to be made under Article 70 as to what action will best serve stability and uniformity of nomenclature.'

Ride: 'Article 70 requires the Commission to act in the interests of stability and uniformity of nomenclature. The Commission is without power to act otherwise. The application contains no information as to current usage. I approve the proposal provided the Secretary ascertains that current usage is not violated by it. If he discovers that the purpose of the application is merely to remove subjective synonymy between *Sebastocles* Jordan & Hubbs and *Takenokius* Matsubara when both are used as though *Sebastes elegans* is the name-bearing type, the case should be reopened with an argument favouring the solution in Article 70a(i) or (iii) in terms of stability and uniformity'.

Dr Ride's comment generated a lengthy correspondence between himself, the Secretariat and Professor Chen. Dr Holthuis eventually intervened to point out that the application was rendered necessary by the terms of Article 70a, regardless of usage, of which there happened to be very little in this case. He suggested a change in that provision to allow a misidentified type species to continue to be used as such unless confusion arose, in which case alone need the matter be referred to the Commission. This proposition has been retained for later consideration. R.V.M.

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:
hubbsi, *Sebastichthys*, Matsubara, 1937, *Copeia*, 1937 (1), p. 57
Sebastocles Jordan & Hubbs, 1925, *Mem. Carnegie Mus.* vol. 10 (2), p. 260 fn.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the votes cast on V.P.(81)25 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that voting paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision

so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 1235.

R.V. MELVILLE

Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

20 July 1982